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U.S. PTO
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Attorney Docket No.: 116385

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22212 4-8 PTO
10/634904
08/05/03MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATIONNONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
RULE §1.53(b)

Customer Number: 25944

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) is the nonprovisional patent application

For (Title): SUPPORT DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF, STAGE DEVICE, AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS

By (Inventors): Masato TAKAHASHI, Koji YAMAMOTO

Formal drawings (Figs. 1-15; 11 sheets) are attached.
 Use Figure _____ for front page of Publication.

A Declaration and Power of Attorney is filed herewith.

This application claims benefit of Provisional Application No. _____ filed _____.
 (A Preliminary Amendment is attached to reflect this claim in the Specification if not already present.)

This patent application is assigned to Nikon Corporation.
 The executed Assignment is filed herewith.

An Information Disclosure Statement is filed herewith.

Entitlement to small entity status is hereby asserted.

A Preliminary Amendment is filed herewith.

Priority of foreign applications No. 2002-228943 filed August 6, 2002 in Japan and No. 2002-234988 filed August 12, 2002 in Japan is claimed (35 U.S.C. §119).
 A certified copy of the above corresponding foreign applications is filed herewith.

This application is NOT to be published under 35 U.S.C. 112(b). The undersigned attorney or agent hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not been and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

The filing fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION AFTER ENTRY OF
ANY PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT NOTED ABOVE

| FOR: | NO. FILED | NO. EXTRA |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| BASIC FEE | | |
| TOTAL CLAIMS | 27 - 20 | = *7 |
| INDEP CLAIMS | 3 - 3 | = *0 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED | | |

* If the difference is less than zero, enter "0".

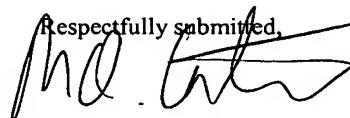
SMALL ENTITY

| RATE | FEES |
|---------|--------|
| | \$ 375 |
| x 9 = | \$ |
| x 42 = | \$ |
| + 140 = | \$ |
| TOTAL | \$ |

OTHER THAN A
SMALL ENTITY

| OR | RATE | FEES |
|----|-------|--------|
| OR | | \$ 750 |
| OR | x 18 | \$ 126 |
| OR | x 84 | \$ |
| OR | + 280 | \$ |
| OR | TOTAL | \$ 876 |

Check No. 144969 in the amount of \$876 to cover the filing fee is attached. Except as otherwise noted herein, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees that may be required to complete this filing, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 15-0461. Two duplicate copies of this sheet are attached.

Respectfully submitted,


Mario A. Costantino
 Registration No. 33,565